

REDS ARE WINNING ON ESTHONIA FRONT

Bolsheviks on Verge of Breaking Down North Europe's Buffer Against Peril.

BLOCKADE WOULD FAIL

All Drafted United States Soldiers on Way Home From Siberia.

Special Despatch to The Sun.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Not an armistice but a complete peace is now demanded by the Bolshevik commissaries at Riga, Esthonia. Official information received here today is that the Bolsheviks have about succeeded in caving the Baltic States, to such a degree that it is thought, beginning with Esthonia and Latvia, the northern European buffer against Bolshevik Russia will soon be under Red control.

This will mean among other things that the ports of Riga, Vitebsk and others will be opened to trade and that the Russian Baltic sea will be open to the world. Denmark and Germany will be exchanged for vital necessities needed by the Bolsheviks.

State Department information, confirmed by dispatches from other sources, is that the Bolsheviks are demanding that Esthonia at once sever all relations with the Allies and with Finland, and are following up their demands by aggressive military action. Fifteen Bolshevik divisions are said to be attacking along the Esthonian front, opposed by three Esthonian divisions. Appeals for help to Finland have again been made, but the Finnish attitude of non-interference unless the Allies make certain guarantees is still maintained.

The opinion is growing here that the salvation of Russia will come by revolution, evolution, or a combination of both. Those who have protested against the lifting of the blockade are now beginning to question the wisdom of its continuance.

It was pointed out that, including Finland, Rumania, Poland, Lithuania and the Baltic States, all of which are fighting against Bolshevikism, over 110,000,000 people are lined up against Russia proper. This means that practically one-third of the population of what was once the Russian Empire are against not only the Reds but against those who would bring them back into the old solidarity of the country.

It is stated here that England has been of more assistance to the Baltic than France and the complaint is heard that the Wilson theory of self-determination is a negligible quantity so far as the Baltic States are concerned. France is believed to be cold to any proposition that will mean a divided Russia, while England's trade interests are said to be one factor in her treatment of the Baltic problem.

Those who think it might be well to lift the blockade against the Bolsheviks say that if the Chinese policy of non-interference is abandoned the better element of Russian life will then have a chance to assert themselves and that the Leninists will not be able to make much capital of the resumption of the trade and communication.

The very sympathy of millions of Russians is an important factor, according to diplomats here. Peasants are fastly refusing to give up their grain to the Soviets, they say, and the spirit of revolution against existing conditions will be augmented if food and fuel are to be had by the better element.

A War Department announcement today said:

"All of the American soldiers who were drafted for the world war are now out of Siberia. Replacements of volunteer enlisted men have been going forward to Siberia for some time, and in proportion drafted men have been returned to the United States for discharge. A large number of men for discharge are now en route to San Francisco on board the transport Thomas, which is due to arrive December 22, and the last contingent of eighty-five men left Siberia on December 11 on the transport Sherman, which will be due in about twenty days."

WIFE SUES JOSEPH E. SHEA.

Florence Tempest, Actress, Seeks Divorce From Manager.

Florence Tempest Shea, vaudeville actress, formerly of "Tempest and Sunshine," filed a Supreme Court action for divorce yesterday against Joseph E. Shea. He is owner of an interest in several theatres.

She charges that he and an unidentified woman were companions in an apartment on Broadway and 124th street on October 17, and at other times and places. He has not yet filed an answer.

U. S. SHIP BOARD TO EXPAND IN EUROPE

Placing of Commissions in Ports on Continent Is Likely to Result.

700 VESSELS HANDLED

New Plan Indicates That Sale of Its Carriers Is Not Contemplated Now.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.
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LONDON, Dec. 16.—The gradual increase of commercial cargoes to Europe in ships controlled or owned by the United States Shipping Board has necessitated the drawing up of plans for expansion and organization on the Continent. For the purpose H. E. Estes, assistant controller of the Shipping Board, and Percy Everett, the general auditor in Paris, started for the United States for a conference with the heads of the Shipping Board.

It is expected that before long commissions will be established on the Continent at several important ports to supervise operations, as the task is becoming too large to be handled entirely from England. The first commission under the new plan probably will be established at Rotterdam, with jurisdiction over the German ports.

It is estimated that the Shipping Board has about 700 steel vessels, of which more than half are in the European trade. The matter of handling these ships on this side and of getting them headed for home again is becoming more difficult daily, especially with regard to ships that do not touch at British ports.

It is believed that the decision of the Shipping Board officials to hold a conference in the United States was preceded by practical assurance that the commissions would be established in continental ports. This indicates that the Shipping Board has no intention of giving up its control of the American merchant fleet, but is planning instead to extend it. It is proved to be the case the sale of ships owned by the American Government to private interests and the retirement of the Shipping Board from the position dominating the American merchant marine, as has been frequently rumored here, have been settled definitely in the negative.

The method of operating the American merchant marine is closely watched here, because it is believed that under private ownership of United States ships the British mercantile marine easily can gain the upper hand, owing to its longer experience and more favorable operating conditions.

PLAGUE IN SOUTH AMERICA.

Also Reported in Poor Section of Constantinople.

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 16.—The bubonic plague is reported to have gained grave proportions at Las Rosas, Santa Fe Province, where the business houses have been ordered closed for forty-eight hours owing to bad hygienic conditions. Several deaths with no medical assistance are said to have occurred at Las Rosas. The sanitary committee has asked for help. The National Department of Hygiene has begun a war on the rats infesting grain warehouses.

GENEVA, Dec. 16.—Reports of an outbreak of the bubonic plague at Constantinople are confirmed in a telegram received here today at the offices of the International Red Cross organization. The telegram said the disease was spreading in the poorer districts of the Turkish capital and that in some cases it had invaded the European quarters.

PASSAGE OF TREATY URGED.

Merchants Association Sends Appeal to Wilson and Senate.

The directors of the Merchants Association in an appeal to President Wilson yesterday asked him to make concessions that would insure prompt ratification of the peace treaty. A similar message to the Senate urged prompt action on the treaty's passage. The petition said:

"No pride of opinion or desire for partisan benefit should prevent or further delay mutual concessions which apparently alone will bring formal ratification of peace, and thus permit the concentration of Congress and our people upon definite measures necessary to aid our own recovery and that of Europe from war conditions."

INQUIRY INTO ARMY EXPENDITURES ENDS

House Fails to Approve Impartial Board Plan.

House Fails to Approve Impartial Board Plan.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Discussion of the report of the special House committee investigating War Department expenditures, after consuming practically three legislative days, was completed today by Representative Graham (Ill.), chairman of the committee, who in a speech advanced the proposal that all settlements for unexpired contracts with the War Department be submitted to an impartial board for review and final disposition.

Representative Garrett (Tenn.), minority member of the committee, replying to the chairman's speech, characterized the committee's investigation as "a raking of the War Department with a fine tooth comb hoping that some fraud might be uncovered." Efforts of the committee to find cases of fraud, he told the House, were futile. Presentation of a report such as the one compiled by the majority, he said, was "a reflection on the intelligence of majority members as lawyers."

No affirmative action was taken by the House on the suggestion of Chairman Graham. A previous report submitted last month contained a resolution directing Secretary Baker to review all claims settled for unexpired contracts. This was later abandoned and the report was made available only for discussion of the committee findings before the House.

WARDEN GRANT IN CHARGE.

First Official Act Puts Sayer in Sing Sing Death House.

The responsibilities connected with the wardenship of Sing Sing were borne in strikingly upon Daniel J. Grant when he took over the work of Warden Edward V. Brophy yesterday. His first official act was to sign papers admitting to the death row Howard Baker, sentenced by Supreme Court Justice Clark in Wayne county to die the week of January 25, 1920, for murder. Warden Brophy had held the previous record for having under his charge the largest number of condemned murderers in the prison's history. The new arrival raises the number to twenty-eight.

Warden Grant spent most of the day familiarizing himself with the prison routine. He did not go to the death house, which contains some of the State's most notorious criminals, among them Gordon Fawcett Hamby, convicted of the East Brooklyn Savings Bank robbery, and Joseph Cohen, convicted of the murder of Barnett Raff, West Washington Market poultry dealer. Some of the executions are set for the first week in January.

SENATE IN DARK ON WILSON RAIL PLAN

Hines Sends Recommendation for Ending Government Control.

CUMMINS BILL ATTACKED

Pointdexter Objects to Lower Charge for Long Haul in Special Cases.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—The bill embodying permanent legislation to meet the situation with the return of the railroads to private control continued today before the Senate, but with Senators admittedly still in the dark as to the time President Wilson plans to turn back the carriers.

Director-General Hines has sent to the President new recommendations as to ending government operation, but he would not discuss them to-day and White House officials professed to have no information.

Many Senators and some Administration officials still hold that the President will not carry out his notice to Congress of last May that government control will be ended by January 1. They think the time of the return will depend largely on the progress made by Congress on the permanent legislation. Plans for the return of the roads by the first of the year are going forward at the Railroad Administration, however. Administration office contracts contain a thirty day release clause so that they may be abrogated at any time without great loss to the government, while materials ordered on contracts are being obtained as far as possible before the first of the new year.

In its effort to speed up permanent legislation the Senate held another night session, but there was little prospect of final Congressional action until well after the Christmas holidays.

Sharp opposition to some of the provisions of the Cummins Bill under discussion was expressed in the debate to-day and to-night. Senator Pointdexter (Washington) attacked the proposal under which the Interstate Commerce Commission would be authorized in special cases to permit a lower charge for a long haul than for a short haul, while Senator Frelinghuysen, Republican (New Jersey), argued provision should be made for assisting the roads in financing their immediate needs after the return. To

that end he offered an amendment to permit them to borrow from the Government out of a \$500,000,000 revolving fund.

The amendment is identical with the provision of the House bill and was opposed by Senator Cummins, who contended that Congress ought to assume that legislation soon would be enacted which would enable the roads to borrow from private sources all the money needed to meet immediate requirements.

ENGLISH FREIGHT RATES RISE.

New Schedule to Show From 60 to 70 Per Cent. Advance.

LONDON, Dec. 16.—A new schedule of railroad freight rates will be issued in a few days by the Ministry of Transport, according to the Evening News. It will show an increase of from 60 to 70 per cent, according to the newspaper's figures.

WEATHER DELAYS IMPELATOR.

Will Not Reach Plymouth From New York Until Saturday.

LONDON, Dec. 16.—The Cunard Line announced that the steamer Imperator, which sailed from New York last Thursday, has been delayed by the inclemency of the weather and the necessity to overhaul the vessel's machinery. She is not expected to arrive in Plymouth until next Saturday.

SNOW COVERS CITY AT NIGHT.

Harlem Woman Is Killed by Fall on Slippery Street.

A snowfall that was more than a flurry started in late last night weaving a counterpane for the big town. It was unheralded by the prophets, who predicted "fair and continued cold." The snow was fine and icy and many slipped on it in places where it had attained skating rink slipperiness. Mrs. Mary Mecula, aged 56, of 402 East 123rd street fell in front of 215 East 123rd street and died a few minutes later of a fractured skull.

At midnight about a quarter of an inch had fallen and it was still snowing. The record for low temperatures was broken yesterday when the thermometers registered 14. The previous cold spell sent the mercury down to 17.

VETS ASK CONGRESS FOR INSURANCE LAW

American Legion Officers Demand Quick Action on War Risk Bills.

D'OLIER GIVES WARNING

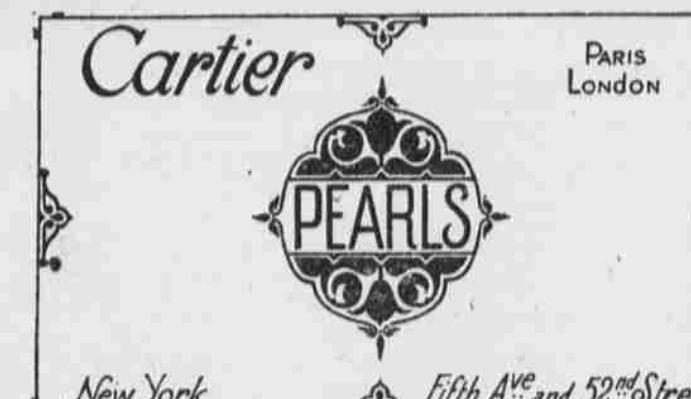
Wilson Sends Greetings and Pershing Favors Greater Liberality.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—The American Legion, through Franklin D'Olier, its grand commander, called on Congress to-night for immediate enactment of legislation giving former service men the consideration they deserve at the hands of their Government.

"It is plainly evident to the conference of American Legion representatives that if the disabled service men and their families and all ex-service persons in the United States are to receive just and liberal consideration at the hands of the Government, which the people of this country intended they should receive, immediate action on the part of Congress is absolutely necessary."

Each State commander presented today to the Senators and Congressmen from his State specific legislation embodied in amendments to the Sweet and Watson bills, which if enacted will secure to the veterans of the great war adequate and liberal service from the Bureau of War Risk Insurance, the Federal Board for Vocational Education and the Public Health Service.

"It is of vital importance not only to ex-service persons, especially the disabled and their families, but also to the people of the whole country, that this legislation be enacted without delay. Ex-service men and women are not satisfied with existing legislation and regulations affecting their welfare. Only through such measures as are now recommended by the American Legion and ap-



Cartier
PARIS
LONDON
New York
Fifth Ave. and 52nd Street

FLIES 226 MILES AN HOUR.

French Aviator Breaks All Speed Records in Official Test.

PARIS, Dec. 16.—A burst of speed of approximately 226 miles an hour was scored by Sadi Lecoq, French aviator, in an officially timed airplane to-day. Lecoq, who holds the French record for height and broke the French speed record last September, covered a kilometer in to-day's test at an average speed of 367.225 kilometers (about 190 miles) an hour, while during some seconds of his flight he reached a speed of 364.5 kilometers (226 miles) an hour, or about 3 1/2 miles a minute.

FLIES TO HER HAVANA JOB.

Woman Millinery Expert at Wannamaker's Beats Bon.

A sudden call for extra goods to be displayed at the Havana exhibitions of the John Wannamaker store was responsible for a quick trip by Mme. Germaine Madeline, millinery expert, to Iaim Beach, where she took an airplane from the America Transatlantic Oceanic Company of New York to Havana.

A cabin message was received yesterday from the pilot, David McCulloch, announcing that the trip had been made successfully in 3 hours 50 minutes, beating the time by rail and boat by 15 hours. McCulloch was a member of the crew of the NC-3 of Transatlantic fame.

Store Hours: 9 A. M. to 5.30 P. M.

Broadway

Saks & Company

at 34th Street

A Rare Opportunity

150 Girls' Velveteen Frocks

Very liberally reduced to

\$12.95

Every girl loves a velveteen frock, and what would make a more practical gift!

Two pretty models to choose from, fashioned of good quality velveteen, hand embroidered with silk or wool in a variety of beautiful color combinations, and trimmed with faille silk, ribbon and colored piping.

Sizes 6 to 12 Years

Second Floor.

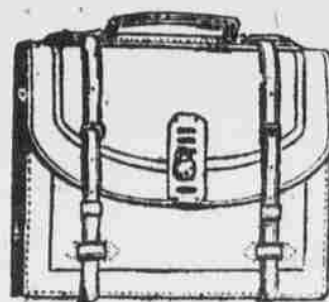


Genuine Sole Leather Brief Cases, \$19.50

Regularly \$29.50

The brief case pictured at left is one of the finest we ever had in our stock. Its construction is above criticism.

Made of 5 and 6 oz. sole leather, with all round adjustable strap, four pockets, reliable extension lock, and padlock. Size 13 by 18 inches. As one of our customers remarked: "It's a corker!"



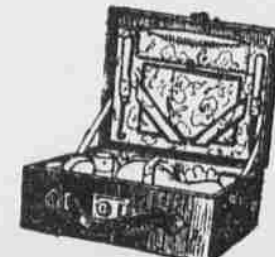
Cortex Overnight Boxes

Regularly \$12.50

Special at \$9.50

Just the thing for those taking a week-end trip. Made of black Cortex, novelty silk lined, and fitted with imitation ivory fittings. Illustrated.

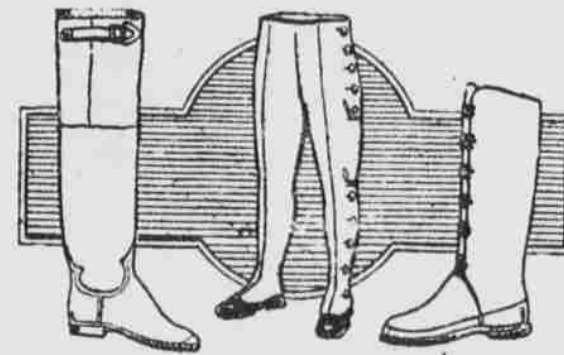
Main Floor.



Buy Your

Goodyear Glove Arctics and Storm King Boots

Now. We have a splendid collection on hand, priced according to wholesale costs in effect last Spring. This means a liberal saving if you make your selections at Saks.



Storm Boots	Sizes	Prices
Children	8 to 10 1/2	\$3.00
Misses and Youths	11 to 2	\$3.50
Boys	3 to 6	\$4.00
Glove Arctics	Sizes	Prices
Children	8 to 2	\$3.25
Misses, 6 buckle	11 to 2	\$3.75
Boys, 4 buckle	3 to 6	\$4.25
Boys, 6 buckle	3 to 6	\$4.50
Women's, 4 buckle	3 to 7	\$4.25
Women's, 6 buckle	3 to 7	\$4.50
Women's, button	3 to 7	\$5.00

Children's Jersey Drawer Leggings

in black, brown, gray, navy blue and white. Sizes 2 to 8. \$2, \$2.50 and \$3.00

Second Floor.

STORE HOURS: 9.00 A. M. to 5.30 P. M.

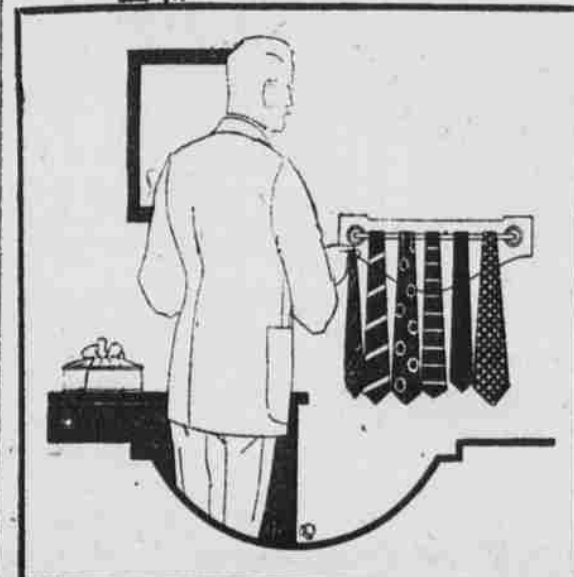
A SALE

At Saks To-day

3,600 Men's SILK CRAVATS

Of Imported Swiss, French and American Silks

At \$1.85



Just arrived! New patterns, new colorings, and a new standard of value in silk neckwear below two dollars. You'll like the silks immensely—soft, crumple-proof stuffs that provide inspiration even to the connoisseur. And the colorings—everything within the province of good taste. Everything from a soft two-tone brown to the most exclusive tricolorings, the beauty of which just won't be transferred to print. We think they're fine—so will you!

Broadway Saks & Company At 34th St.

Nothing so contributes to poise and comfort as a custom made shirt tailored with Morgan precision.

Wm. Morgan & Sons
Clothing—Haberdashers
14 Cortlandt St., 9-11 Day St.

Why not have shoes that are really YOUR shoes?



Oliver Moore
CUSTOM SHOE MAKER
Established 1878
44 W. 4th St.
Phone Bryant 2197